

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

MAYOR: David Romero

COUNCILORS: Barbara Casey
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri

ALSO PRESENT: Leo Maestas, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Caleb Marquez, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Romero called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Montoya asked for a moment to keep the families of Deacon Luis Casaus, Lorenzo Flores and John Castellano in their prayers. Councilor Montoya asked to keep Mayor Romero in their prayers for the safety and prosperity of the City of Las Vegas.

Mayor Romero apologized for not being present during last week's Council meeting. Mayor Romero thanked his colleagues for their support and their prayers

through this transition and stated at the end of the day they are a Governing Body as a whole.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. All were in favor.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2023. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval to accept Police Chief Antonio Salazar’s resignation, effective November 16, 2023.

Councilor Casey made a motion to accept Police Chief Antonio Salazar’s resignation, effective November 16, 2023.

Councilor Montoya asked to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters regarding the appointment.

Mayor Romero advised that they were on the item to accept the resignation.

Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Councilor Montoya advised that he wanted to make a motion to go into executive session and advised that they could make a motion to go into executive session at any time for personnel reasons and stated this was a personnel matter.

Mayor Romero advised that there was already a motion and a second, which they needed to take care of first.

Councilor Montoya advised there was new information that would affect the position.

Mayor Romero advised for clarification, Item number 9 during executive session would be to discuss appointing an Interim Police Chief.

Councilor Montoya asked for the motion to be read again.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion was for approval to accept Police Chief Antonio Salazar's resignation, effective November 16, 2023 and a second by Councilor Ulibarri.

Councilor Montoya asked who the letter of resignation was turned into.

Human Resource Director Arguello advised it was turned into HR.

Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Montoya made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing Limited personnel matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, Discussion on appointing an Interim Police Chief. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to exit executive session and reconvene into regular session after being in executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, Discussion on appointing an Interim Police Chief, and no action was taken. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION ITEM

1. Request approval to appoint Caleb Marquez as Interim Police Chief.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the appointment of Caleb Marquez as Interim Police Chief with the salary of \$85,000. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya congratulated Interim Police Chief Caleb Marquez and asked City Clerk Fresquez to provide him with the Oath of Office.

City Clerk Fresquez advised she did not have that with her but would do that right after the meeting.

Councilor Montoya advised that they would be advertising the Chief of Police position for those interested.

Mayor Romero advised that there were still questions regarding the Mayor position and advised that City Clerk Fresquez was working with the Secretary of State's Office, the County Clerk and legal as to how the City shall proceed. Mayor Romero advised that there was some contradicting language pertaining to the City Charter and State Statute but as soon as City Clerk Fresquez receives that information the Governing Body would discuss it and take action depending on legal advice and the advice given to them by the Secretary of State's Office.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Discussion on the process to select a Chief of Police.

Mayor Romero advised according to the City Charter Article V, Section 5.06, states that the Mayor shall select two (2) or more individuals to be presented to the Governing Body. Mayor Romero advised that he could present two names himself but in all fairness the best way is to open that position up and see what applicants apply and then the Governing Body would decide.

Councilor Casey agreed to open the position up and see who is qualified.

Mayor Romero advised that he would work with HR Director Arguello to get that position advertised.

ADJOURN

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

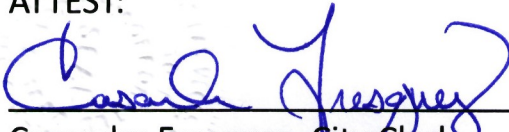
City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.



Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk